

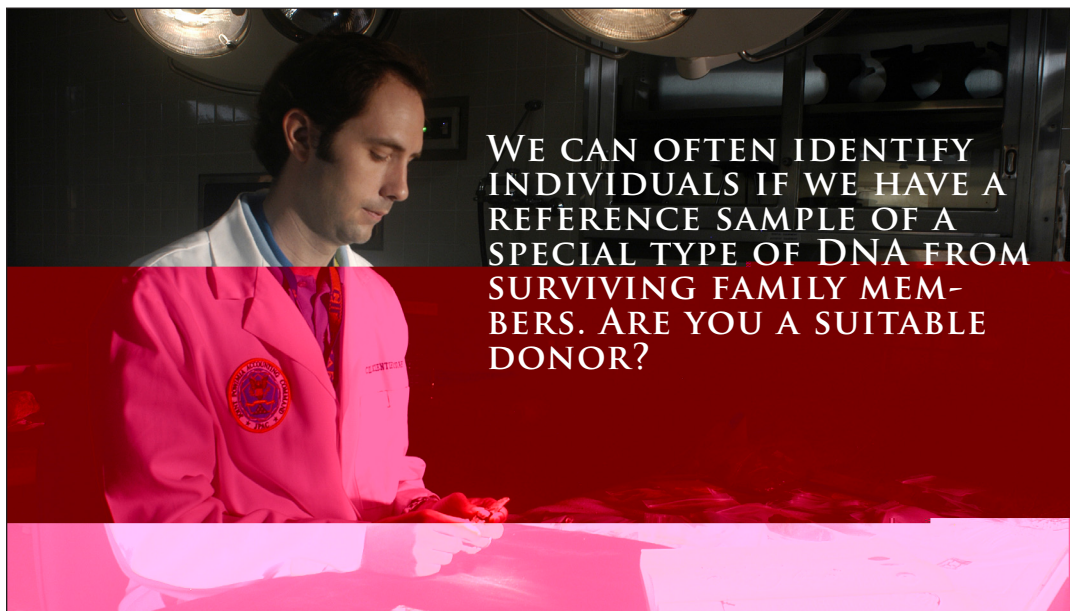


# YOU CAN HELP IDENTIFY AMERICA'S MISSING HEROES

JPAC FS-2

"Until they are home"

Fact Sheet



WE CAN OFTEN IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS IF WE HAVE A REFERENCE SAMPLE OF A SPECIAL TYPE OF DNA FROM SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS. ARE YOU A SUITABLE DONOR?

## HOW TO HELP

You may be able to help us identify America's missing heroes. If you are a family member of an individual who is Missing in Action, we may be able to use a sample of your DNA to help us with our identification process. However, we do not need a sample from just any family member – we can only use samples from family members who share the same mitochondrial DNA (commonly referred to as mtDNA).

## WHO CAN DONATE?

The type of DNA we use to identify individuals is inherited only from the mother. This means that each person's mother, as well as brothers, sisters, sister's children and many other relatives share the same kind of mtDNA.

This is useful because it means that mtDNA from relatives (sometimes quite distant ones) can be directly compared to mtDNA from unidentified remains. The downside is that children of a missing male cannot provide an mtDNA reference sample. The sex of the missing person and the donor are irrelevant.

## A POWERFUL TOOL

We use mtDNA because it is long-lasting, abundant, and doesn't change much from generation to generation. While mtDNA testing does not uniquely identify an individual like a fingerprint or other kinds of DNA testing, it does help us determine if an individual is related to surviving relatives. Combined with other evidence that we gather, this is

a powerful tool that we use to identify the remains that we find. You might wonder why we can't quickly identify an individual from a DNA sample like forensic scientists do on TV. The short answer is that we would need a pre-existing sample of DNA from all the missing individuals we are trying to identify – and DNA samples were not routinely collected from our service men and women until the Gulf War.

## PRIVACY ASSURED

If you donate a sample of mtDNA, rest assured that it will only be used for the purposes of assisting remains identification and will not be used for any other purpose or be released to other government agencies or any other organizations.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

*If you think you may be a suitable donor, contact the appropriate service casualty office listed below (select the service of your missing relative).*

### AIR FORCE

USAF Missing Persons Branch  
550 C Street West, Suite 15  
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716  
1 (800) 531-5501

### ARMY

Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Human Resources Command  
ATTN: AHRC-PER  
200 Stovall Street  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0482  
1 (800) 892-2490

### MARINE CORPS

Headquarters U. S. Marine Corps  
Manpower and Reserve Affairs  
Family Readiness Division  
3280 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-5103  
1 (800) 847-1597

### NAVY

Navy Personnel Command  
Casualty Assistance Division  
POW/MIA Branch (PERS-624)  
5720 Integrity Drive  
Millington, TN 38055-6210  
1 (800) 443-9298

### STATE DEPARTMENT

Overseas Citizens Services  
U.S. Department of State  
4th Floor  
2201 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
Phone: (202) 647-5470